

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas Co.
Chapter 4, Section 4b - 3
Averill's Retreat

of W. Va., and he had the reputation of a most powerful and effective war lord. They expected him to be an older man.

On the 23rd he began the journey across Elk back to Beverly and safety. The roads were glazed with ice. The men had to dismount and pull the artillery by hand part of the way. But they got back with all their equipment.

For endurance, courage, strength and pluck this experience of an army of 2,500 is perhaps without parallel. Why much was not made of it is hard to figure out. For the work of these 2,500 who split the Confederacy wide open and overcome the resistance of the forces of men and nature seems that of supermen. Historians have practically ignored it. All the publicity it got at the time was from the Richmond papers and that was ridicule heaped on the Confederate forces, when no less than seven Confederate armies allowed one little Union army to cut through their lines, destroy two hundred thousand bushels of grain and other stores, tear up a railroad, and then to escape without capture.

The government recognized his campaign as a brilliant achievement, though the escape was due to pure luck, the Confederates having taken the wrong road. However, their reward was a new suit and a new pair shoes, for each of the men, to replace those worn out on the march. (From History of Pocahontas - Price Pocahontas Times Apr. 26, 1923. Written by Andrew Price.)

This march was made from New Creek in Hampshire County to Beverly by way of Sales, a distance of around 400 miles in 17 days, and in the winter time.

(Union Soldiers)

There were Union soldier from this County who went out and joined other Companies and regiments who were mostly under the commands of Gener Milroy and General Sheridan. All the names that are available are as follows:

Akers Thomas,
Arbogast Brown,
Arbogast George,
Buzzard Armenius,
Curry John,
Cutlip William ,
Duffield William
Duncan William
Dilly Clark,
Kellison Clark,
Kellison Andrew,
Kee James,
McCarty Peter,
Moore, David,
Moore Joseph ,
Sharp Jeremiah
Sharp Milton,
Slaton John,
(Shears David)
(Rider James)
Warless Andrew,
Warless Nelson,
Warless John F

14 Sharp
Family History
5 files -
By Ward Sharp

Chapter 4

"THE POCAHONTAS RESCUERS"

This was an infantry company organized when war threatened between the states back in 1860.

The company was mustered in on Saturday May 18, 1861 and marched on that day to defend the sacred soil of Virginia from invasion by Federal forces in the northwest. They met the invaders at Philippi, but had no luck in repelling them.

General Skeen was the lieutenant of the company. General William Skeen had served as clerk of both county and circuit courts. He was succeeded just before the war by William Curry. He appeared to be the purchasing agent for the county court, as he paid the bills for the little army, and took the receipts thereof. Under date of June 25, 1861 he rendered an itemized account under expenses incurred on March of "Pocahontas Rescues" amounting to \$68.68. It was allowed and \$25.00 paid on account. He notes a balance of \$43.68 due him. This money had mostly been spent for blankets, shoes and gloves.

The Pocahontas Rescuers marched from Huntersville about 10 a.m. May 18, 1861. In Skeen's report he writes the following: A large crowd of ladies and gentlemen were present and at the moment of marching hardly an eye that was not wet with tears. Many accompanied us to the bridge. Then Rev. Flaherty addressed the crowd and all meekly bowed the knee in the public road while he fervently addressed a prayer in behalf of those marching and for those left behind. We halted at night in front of William Gibsons and the company were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, by John Hannah, John B. Hannah and I. V. Hornett (These people lived on Elk)

Sunday May 19.

After the company attended church at I. M. Hogsetts and heard a patriotic sermon from Rev. Flaherty, it then marched to J. Varner's. Just as the company arrived the Cavalry under Captain Andrew McNeel on its return from Philippi came in sight. They were received with all honors. The company then heard a sermon from Rev. J. E. Moore and were dismissed and entertained by John Varner, Josiah Herold, Col. Gatewood at Big Spring. We then marched across the mountain. That night they stayed at John and Jacob Conrads and at John McLaughlins. Rained at intervals all day.

(He stopped keeping a record at the end of the third day)

This campaign lasted several weeks, yet cost Pocahontas only \$69.68. In speaking of this march the old soldiery referred to it as the "Tin Cup Campaign", a cup was all the equipment furnished them. They provided their own arms.

The late Hugh P. McLaughlin always took delight in relating his experiences, as a boy, on this "Tin Cup Campaign". Somewhere along the road to Philippi they came to a farm where there was a mowing machine with its tongue propped up, in a shed. Few of them had ever seen a mower, and word was passed down the ranks that it was a cannon. One boy took a look at it, and remarked on the length of the ramrod.

Muster roll of the Pocahontas Rescuers

Captain - D. A. Stofer
 Lieutenant - William Skoon
 Sergeant - D. W. Blaker
 Quarten - Walter Roby - William H. Ervine
 Privates -
 James Akers
 Andrew C. Alcorzan
 Tim Lee Angus
 Beverly Moon
 George Barr
 Frederick Barr

William H. Carpenter, Mustoo Corbett, William Cole, George Cash, Montgomery Friel, Peter Grimes, Cyrus Gammon, John Granfield, Mathias Griffin, Amos Helmick, Charlss B. Herold, William R. Hogsett, Isaac B. Hanes, Robert A. Hannah, Joseph Hannah, William Henson, Adam Hamilton, Joseph I. Johnson, Joseph D. Jordan, Amos Lyons, Patric Moriarty, James H. McLaughlin, Micheal Moors, Sylvester Mitchell, William L. Pyles, John Pyles, John H. Pence, James Swadley, Lewis Smith, Cain H. Sivey, William Slavens, Lantz Seebert, James Shannon, Marti Sharp, Daniel Varner, Michael Whollihan, Patric Whollihan, Levi Waugh, Charles Weaver, Robert Weaver.

On the return of these Pocahontas Rescuers the company was disbanded, and the men with a number of additions made up Co. 1 25 th Virginia Infantry. J. Hugh McLaughlin was elected first Lieutenant.

Co. 1 25th Virginia Infantry C. S. V.

Captain - D. A. Stofer

1st Lieutenant - J. Hugh McLaughlin

Captain Stofer came from the valley of Virginia. He served as a commonwealth attorney for Pocahontas a number of years. He had been a soldier in the Mexican War and had fought a number of battles. He was wounded at Cross Keys when he fell with five bullet holes in him. But he lived to survive the war some 20 years.

The private who made up this company were the members of the Pocahontas Rescuers with the addition of the following names;

Daniel Arbogast
William Burr
Peter L. Clock
Charles Eagon
William Gammon
Patric Roker

J. W. Mathews
Michael Shannon
C. A. Simmons
B. Franklin Shrader
George Ware
Eugene Ware
William Ware
Benjamin Ware

P. H. T. 4

This company was engaged in the following battles: Philippi
his was while it was known as Pocahontas Rescues). Mc Dowell,
Winchester, Cross Keys, Port Republic, 7 days fight around Richmond,
Slaughter Mountain, Second Manassas, Bristow Station, Sharpsburg,
Fredericksburg. Second Winchester, Gettysburg, Mine Run, and
Wilderness. In the latter the 25th Regiment was captured. Co 1
from Pocahontas had been reduced (killed) to 17 men. Of these 17
men, eleven lived through the war, the other 6 died in prison.

When captured they were first taken to Point Lookout Maryland.
Then to Elmira, N. Y.

539. V 6 Bert H. Waugh
 510 V 7 Jacob Woodrow Shreve
 1011. V 8 George S. Selzer

On Thursday, January 16, another soldier will go out to Clarksburg in the selective service. In the person of 348, V-9 Thurl William Gary.

Master roll of the "Pocahontas
Rescuers" mustered into service on
May 15th, 1861.

Lieutenant, C. J. I. Skeen, b
O. Sergeant, Starker, D. W. C.
Musician, Ruby, Walter K. b
Evans, Wm. H.

Col. George, 1881 01 25, b
1881, Montgomery B
Citizen, Peter

[illegible]

cents, 0 -
Weaver, Robert L. b
"b" signifies that they have received blankets.

Sunday 19th—After the company attended church at I. M. Hogsett's and heard a patriotic sermon from Rev. Flagberry, they marched to J. Varner's. Just as the company arrived the Cavalry under Captain McNeel came in sight. They were received with all honor. The company then heard a sermon from Rev. J. E. Moore and were dismissed and entertained by Jno Varner, Joshua Herold, Colonel Gatewood at Big Spring, John Bush-Cavalry, and Company. Then across the Mountain to Marshall's, Rain during the evening and all night.

Monday 20th.—March resumed at 6 1/2 a. m. Halted an hour at J. W. Marshall's and marched to Jacob Comand's; 15 staying overnight at John Comand's, a few going with John McLaughlin, & to Siders and the rest quartered upon Jacob Comand. Refreshed at intervals all day.

Article 1—This company shall be known by the name of Poesthorff's Pilgrims.

Article 7: The regular number of the sold weapons shall be kept on the

Article 3—All fines assessed against commissioned officers for failure to attend muster shall be \$5.00; non-commissioned officers \$2.50; privates, \$1.25.

Article 4—All fines assessed shall be for the benefit of the company, to be disbursed whenever the amount of \$20 or more shall be found in the hands of the treasurer unappropriated, by a vote of the Company. The majority ruling, if it is considered practicable.

Article 5—This Constitution may be altered or amended at any time by vote of two thirds concurring at a regular meeting, when a majority is present.

Article 6—There shall be a president, secretary and treasurer chosen by the company, who shall hold their office for one year, whose duties shall be those usually performed by such officers.

Article 7- A majority of the Com
pany may at any regular meeting
elect honorary members, who shall be
come honorary members of this Com-
pany thereupon, by paying to the
Treasurer, the sum of three dollars
each.

1. The board for the trial of offenses and non-attendance of members at musters and all other delinquencies shall be tried by a Court Martial, a majority of which shall rule.

2. The Court Martial shall consist of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the company.

Looking around in the court house for something to print, I came upon some old papers in the hand writing of General William Sreen, which gave the roster of "The Pocalontas Rescuers," an Infantry company organized when war threatened between the states, back in 1860. I print it herewith. Also the constitution and by-laws.

The company was mustered in on Saturday, May 12, 1861, and marched on that day to defend the sacred soil of Virginia from invasion by Federal forces in the northwest.

They met the invaders at Phillips, Hartman County, and had no luck in repelling them.

On Monday, January 13, eleven volunteers from Pocahontas County took bus for Clarksburg where they were inducted into the army service. They were:

839-V 6 Bert H. Waugh
540-V 7 Jacob Woodrow Shina-
berry.

836 V-11 Wayne Geiger
641-V-12 Jacob Gene Loury
130-V 13 Ralph Leon Long
 .V-14 Wm. Raymond Bowers
 V 15 Howard James Kelley
718-V-16 Roy J. Houchin
421-V-19 Joseph Leonard Moses, Jr
10-V 21 Arch Waybright
694-V 22 Norman Wilson Phillips

On Thursday, January 16, another soldier will go out to Clarksburg under the selective service, in the person of 348-V-9 Thurl William Gary.

In about five hours the young volunteers were in Clarksburg at the induction station. They will be sent from there to army posts to be thoroughly and properly trained for our and their own protection should war

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In about five hours the young volunteers were in Clarksburg at the induction station. They will be sent from there to army posts to be thoroughly and properly trained for our and their own protection should war be forced upon us. Naturally I was interested in the going out of a company of volunteers eighty years ago from this County. This company, the Pocahontas Rescuers, took about a week to march eighty miles, to learn war in the raw. So—

Muster roll of the "Pocahontas Rescuers" mustered into service on May 18th, 1861.

Captain, Stofer, D. A. 1 pr gloves,
25. b

Lieutenant, C. J. I. Skeen, b
O. Sergeant, Slarker, D. W. C.
Musicians, Roby, Walter R, b
Ervine, Wm. H.
Privates, Akers, James
Alderman, Andrew C.
Angus, Timoleen
Boon, Beverly, b

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Privates, Akers, James

Alderman, Andrew C.

Angus, Timoleen

Boon, Beverly, b

Burr, George

Burr, Frederick

Carpenter, Wm H, b

Corbett, Muscoe

Cole, Wm.

Cash, George, 1 shirt \$1.25, b

Friel, Montgomery R.

Grimes, Peter

Gammon, Cyrus S.

Granfield, John b.

Griffin, Mathias P.

Helmick, Amos

Herold, Charles B.

Herold, Benjamin F.

Hogsett, William R. b

Hanes, Isaac B.

Hannah, Robert A. b

Hannah, Joseph b

Henson, William

Hamilton, Adam G

Johnson, Joseph J

Jordan, Joseph D. b

Lyons, Enos

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Moore, Michael, b
Moore, Levi
Mitchell, Sylvester, b
Piles, Wm. L
Piles, John
Pence, John H
Swadley, James
Smith, Lewis, b
Sivney, Cain H, 1 shirt \$1.25
Slavens, Wm. W
Seebert, Lanty L
Shannon, James, b
Sharp, Martin B
Varner, Daniel A, b
Whollihan, Michael
Whollihan, Patrick
Waugh, Levi, b
Weaver, Charles W. 1 pr gloves, 25
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Weaver, Robert L, b

"b" signifies that they have re-
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from Huntersville about 10 a. m. on
May 18, 1861. A large crowd of la-
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Many gentlemen and ladies accompa-
nied us to the Bridge. Then the
Rev. Mr. Flaherty addressed the
crowd and all meekly bowed the knee
in the public road while he fervently
addressed a prayer in behalf of those
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in front of William Gibson's and the
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first Saturday in the month of April, May, June, August, September and October and the July muster shall be held on the 4th day of the month, save when the 4th happens to fall on Sunday, when it shall be held on the 5th.

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